

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system comprising:
 - (f) (a) a core composition comprising one or more beneficial agents and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, wherein at least one excipient swells when exposed to an aqueous environment,
 - (g) (b) a coat surrounding the core composition, wherein the coat is impermeable to the beneficial agent and other core components, but may be permeable or impermeable to water,
 - (h) (c) a passageway in the coat, and
 - (i) (d) a composition applied so as to cover the passageway, wherein said cover composition does not completely cover the coat; and
 - (j) (e) ~~optionally, an immediate release composition comprising the same or different beneficial agent.~~
2. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the passageway is covered with a polymer composition comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of water soluble ~~polymer~~ polymers, water swellable ~~polymer~~ polymers, pH-dependent ~~polymer~~ polymers and ~~a mixture thereof~~ mixtures thereof.

3. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from agents that are susceptible to decreased stability in the gastric environment.

4. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from agents that are targeted to the intestine for local action.

5. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the beneficial agent is selected from agents that cause bleeding or irritation of the gastric mucosa.

6. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the composition used to cover the passageway is such that it releases the contents of the core at a predetermined time after oral administration.

7. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the composition used to cover the passageway is such that it releases the contents of the core at a predetermined location in the gastrointestinal tract after oral administration.

8. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 1, wherein the system provides delayed release of the beneficial agent.

9. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides timed release of the beneficial agent.

10. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides pulsatile delivery of the beneficial agent.

11. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides controlled release of the beneficial agent.

12. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by a delayed controlled release of the same or a different beneficial agent, the delay being dependent on gastric emptying time.

13. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by a timed controlled release of the same or a different beneficial agent, the delay being independent of gastric emptying time.

14. (Currently amended): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by a delayed

release of the same or a different beneficial agent in a conventional manner, the delay being dependent on gastric emptying time.

15. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system provides an immediate release of a beneficial agent followed by delayed release of another beneficial agent, the delay being independent of gastric emptying time.

16. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the system provides delivery of the beneficial agent to a targeted site.

17. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 16 wherein the delivery is in the form of a pulse.

18. (Original): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 16 wherein the beneficial agent is delivered in a rate controlled manner.

19. (New): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cover composition forms at least one of a plug or a band blocking the passageway.

20. (New): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 19 wherein the cover composition forms a plug blocking the passageway.

21. (New): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cover composition forms a band blocking the passageway.

22. (New): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover composition covers only the orifice.

23. (New): A programmed drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an immediate release composition comprising the same or a different beneficial agent.